

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14951 01 OF 02 201644Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01

NSC-07 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /153 W
----- 091338

R 201632Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5185

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MBFR, MASS, PARM, PFOR, FR, GW

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER

REFS: (A) BONN 11064, (B) STATE 196039

BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND MET WITH FRG
DEFENSE MINISTER GEORG LEBER ON SEPTEMBER 19 FOR A TOUR
D'HORIZON OF VARIOUS DEFENSE ISSUES. ITEMS DISCUSSED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 14951 01 OF 02 201644Z

INCLUDED THE NUNN AMENDMENT, FRG ARMS SALES TO GREECE,

MBFR, THE UK DEFENSE REVIEW AND FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND HAD ONE OF HIS PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH FRG DEFENSE MINISTER GEORG LEBER IN THE LATTER'S BUNDESTAG OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 19. LEBER WAS AT THE BUNDESTAG FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENTATION OF ITS DRAFT BUDGET. WHEN ASKED BY THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE DEFENSE ALLOCATION, LEBER REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY CITING THE FACT THAT THE DEFENSE PORTION IS NOT ONLY GROWING BUT AT A RATE GREATER THAN THE INCREASE IN THE OVERALL BUDGET. LEBER NOTED THE DEFENSE BUDGET FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE PERSONNEL COSTS WHICH ARE FACTORED IN ELSEWHERE SO THAT, IN EFFECT, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUESTED FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES IS TO BE FOUND IN MORE THAN ONE APPROPRIATION.

2. NUNN AMENDMENT. THE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED A COPY OF SECTION 302 OF PUBLIC LAW 93-365 (THE NUNN AMENDMENT) TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER FOR HIS INFORMATION. LEBER INDICATED HE HAD SPOKEN TO SENATOR NUNN WHEN THE SENATOR LAST VISITED GERMANY, AND THEREFORE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THE APPROACH TAKEN IN THE AMENDMENT. LEBER INDICATED THAT THE PERSONNEL EXCHANGE ENVISIONED WAS VIEWED BY THE GERMANS AS STRICTLY AN INTERNAL U.S. AFFAIR. HE NOTED THAT GENERAL DAVISON AT USAREUR HAD ALREADY INITIATED A PROGRAM OF REDUCING SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AND THAT UNLESS HE RECEIVED SOME CREDIT FOR THOSE EARLIER REDUCTIONS THE NEED TO FIND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT POSITIONS COULD PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. LEBER WAS PLEASED WITH THE CONCEPT THAT SUPPORT TROOPS SHOULD BE REPLACED BY COMBAT PERSONNEL AND THAT THERE NEED BE NO DIMINUTION OF THE U.S. FORCE LEVEL.

3. FRG ARMS ASSISTANCE TO GREECE. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE QUESTION RAISED BY MINISTER LEBER LAST JULY ABOUT THE U.S. SELLING ARMS TO GREECE IN LIEU OF THE FRG NOW SEEMED TO BE A DEAD ISSUE (REF A). LEBER AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. LEBER NOTED THE FRG HAS STOPPED THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO BOTH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 14951 01 OF 02 201644Z

GREEKS AND THE TURKS. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO ADDITIONAL ARMS ASSISTANCE TO EITHER COUNTRY.

4. MBFR. LEBER SAID HE PLANNED TO MEET THAT EVENING WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TO DISCUSS MBFR. HE SAID HE EXPECTED NO DECISIVE DECISIONS TO RESULT FROM THE MEETING. HE EMPHASIZED THE

FRG WOULD NOT MOVE UNILATERALLY IN ANTICIPATION OF MBFR
NOR WAS THERE ANY INTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURE FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT A "GO-IT-ALONE" POLICY. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE THAT SOME FORMULA COULD BE FOUND FOR GETTING THE
TALKS MOVING. HE EXPRESSED A SENSE OF UNEASE AS TO HOW,
IF THERE IS NO MOVEMENT IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, THE
UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD
REACT. HE CITED THE PRESSURE HIS GOVERNMENT HAD EXERTED
ON THE DUTCH NOT TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES OUTSIDE THE MBFR
CONTEXT. LEBER ALSO PROFESSED TO SEE DANGER FOR THE
ALLIANCE IN MOVING TOWARD THE SOVIET POSITION.

5. UK DEFENSE REVIEW. IN RESPONDING TO THE

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PAGE 01 BONN 14951 02 OF 02 201643Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14951

AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH UK DEFENSE MINISTER MASON ON SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4, LEBER NOTED THAT MASON COULD NOT INDICATE WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY WHERE UK TROOP REDUCTIONS, IF ANY, WOULD BE TAKEN. WHILE MASON ASSURED LEBER THAT SUCH CUTS WOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN THE BAOR, LEBER INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. LEBER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 14951 02 OF 02 201643Z

EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN SHOULD THE BRITISH DECIDE TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION.

6. FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. LEBER INDICATED THERE WAS NOTHING NEW TO REPORT IN THE FRANCO-GERMAN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. HE NOTED THE FRENCH WERE STILL REVIEWING DEFENSE MATTERS. LEBER EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT GISCARD WANTS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE BELIEVES THE FRENCH ARE SEEKING SOME SORT OF PEG UPON WHICH THEY CAN DEVELOP A CLOSER DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER ALLIES. LEBER NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE THE FRENCH ALONG THESE LINES. HE SAID THAT GISCARD ACCEPTS UNCONDITIONALLY THE IRREPLACEABLE SECURITY ROLE OF THE U.S. VIS-A-VIS THE FRG. LEBER SAID WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT FRANCE TO REINTEGRATE MILITARILY INTO NATO, BUT THE FRENCH ARE LOOKING FOR OTHER AREAS IN WHICH TO MOVE. LEBER NOTED THERE IS ALWAYS CONSIDERABLE TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. HOWEVER, SUCH COOPERATION IS AT A VERY EMBRYONIC STAGE, AND IT IS AN EXAGGERATION TO THINK THAT ANYTHING SPECIFIC WILL RESULT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN THIS FIELD. WHEN ASKED BY THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF PLUTON TO THE FRG, LEBER INDICATED THAT BOTH GERMAN AND NATO AGREEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE THESE WEAPONS COULD BE STATIONED ON FRG TERRITORY. LEBER POINTED OUT THAT ON THIS AND OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE ALLIANCE TO PROCEED PATIENTLY AND SLOWLY WITH THE FRENCH TO ENCOURAGE THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD ESTABLISHING A CLOSER DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP.
HILLENBRAND

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